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Public Service Commission

**Docketing Department** 

101 Executive Center Drive

Columbia, SC 29210

RE: 2007-445-A Docket #

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To whom it may concern:

It has been brought to my attention that "stretcher vans" are being considered for Medicaid patients.

This is very disturbing to me in many ways. I have been a registered nurse for 22 years and a nurse manager for 10years. I am currently the Director of Health Services at UniHealth Post-Acute Care in Moncks Corner SC. All dialysis patients have Medicaid benefits and most other patients residing in LTC facilities have NH Medicaid and require transportation everywhere for treatments, MD appointments and dialysis, just to name a few. The thought of placing our residents who require skilled nursing care on a van without medically trained personnel is just appalling. Has anyone who is thinking of doing this ever had any medical training and sat down to think of the repercussions of this act. In order to be placed in a LTC facility you have to meet certain guidelines of the state. Medicare and Medicaid have very strict guidelines we as NH providers have to follow to assure safe, adequate care is given. Only to release our residents to un-medical staff members??

If we look at the patient population that have to be transported by these means, and that in itself should explain why "these" patients need special transport. I am pleading that you reconsider your thoughts on this Docket to give this type of patient the medically necessary transportation they deserve and not try to take away their rights of adequate stable transportation just to save money on someone's budget.

Consider your family and friends, would this be what you would want for yourself or your loved ones. Why do we see over and over again the low to no income people get the raw end of the deal? This is America right. Please give these people the medical care they deserve!!! The current system has its faults but it seems adequate. Let's leave it alone.

Sincerely,

Tina Graleske RN DHS

Committed to Caring

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